

COUNTRY East Germany Approved For Release 2006/04/18 : CIA-RDP82-00457R013800020009-2

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TOPIC Dessau Airfield

EVALUATION

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DATE PREPARED 13 August 1952

REFERENCES

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PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. The following air activities were observed at Dessau airfield between 17 June and 11 July 1952:

17 June. Between 3 a.m. and 4:15 p.m., there was flying by ground attack aircraft in a cloudless sky. Formation take-offs and flying formations of three, four and five planes were observed. A total of about 80 take-offs were made. It was observed three times that a sleeve target was towed over the western edge of the field.

19 June. Between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m., 92 take-offs were made, and formation flying was practiced.

23 June. There was flying between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. Between 12:30 and 1:30 p.m. It was observed three times that a flight of planes took off and, subsequently, practiced formation flying.

27 June. At 6:30 a.m., the field was cordoned off by ground personnel. All civilian vehicles were rerouted. After 7 a.m., four groups of 10 ground attack planes each were parked in the middle of the field. Trucks, sedans, radio trucks, and officers were observed next to the flight control station. At 9:40 a.m., the planes started taking off in flight formation. Immediately after the take-offs, the aircraft assembled in four formations of nine planes. Formation flying was performed very well. The formations landed at the field at 4 p.m. While the formations were in the air, six ground attack planes were parked at the field. (1)

4 July. Between 7 a.m. and 2 p.m., there was school flying by three IL-10s which practiced taking off and landing. The pilots apparently were beginners. Thirty-eight take-offs were counted. (2)

5 July. Between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. take-offs and landings were practiced by two biplanes. Thirty-two take-offs were observed.

8 July. Between 7 a.m. and 2 p.m., IL-10s practiced taking off and landing. The aircraft made the first attempts to fly in flight formation with large distances between the individual planes. Three aircraft, including one towing a sleeve target, headed east. They landed after about one hour. Sixty-seven take-offs were counted. During air activity.

(3)

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9 July. Between 7 a.m. and 1 p.m., two biplanes practiced taking off and landing. Twenty-one take-offs were counted. Between 4 and 8:30 p.m., AA guns fired with live ammunition at a sleeve target towed by a biplane. The sleeve target was repeatedly hit. (4)

10 July. After 8:30 p.m., two IL-10s made night flights which lasted up to 20 minutes. Twenty-eight take-offs were counted up to 2:30 a.m. apparently, student pilots were trained since four searchlights were in operation. During previous night flights, only one searchlight illuminated the runway for a short time. The landings were performed rather poorly. (2)

11 July. Three biplanes and 39 IL-10s were counted at the field.

2. After 20 June, 3 large tents of an undetermined purpose and 3 trucks at their side were observed in the southern section of the field, about in line with the flight control building. (5) A board fence was under construction around the field. (6)

3. At 10 a.m. on 17 June, individual ground attack planes took off assembled in formations of four over the field and circled over the Desslau-Rodleben-Necken-Rietzneck-Alten area. Eight aircraft were in the air at the same time. They practiced firing at a sleeve target which was towed by a ground attack plane. Simultaneously, there was low level flying by two biplanes over the training area. The planes which apparently participated in exercises by engineer troops flew so low that they nearly skimmed the tops of the trees.

4. At 12:50 p.m. on 24 June, a plane with a red propeller hub was observed at the field. (7) At the same time on 27 June, six ground attack planes were parked at the field.

5. At 7:30 p.m. on 1 July, holes for a fence were dug along the railroad line. Pointed logs were stored at the field. (6)

6. On 27 June, a radio truck with several rod antennas and a grid around its roof was parked on the northwestern edge of the field. A sentry was observed on the roof.

7. On 27 June, 15 IL-10s and 2 biplanes were counted at the field. The 2 biplanes and 20 IL-10s were parked north of the taxiway and the remaining 25 IL-10s were south of the taxiway. On 4 July, there was flying at the field. One biplane and 47 IL-10s were parked there.

#### Comments.

- (1) All airworthy IL-10s of the ground attack regiment at Dessau airfield apparently participated in formation flying. A total of 42 IL-10s, including the 6 planes which did not fly, were counted. The regiment has an authorized strength of 52 operational aircraft and some trainers. According to information available, there are some open sheds on the northern edge of the field in which some IL-10s are possibly parked.
- (2) This is the first report on a basic pilot school at Dessau airfield.
- (3) The aircraft of this ground attack regiment are marked by the white upper edges on their rudder assemblies.
- (4) This is the first information that AA guns at a field practiced firing with live ammunition.
- (5) The tents are possibly assigned to the AA crews at the field.
- (6) The construction of a fence around Dessau airfield is reported for the first time. So far, reports on the completion of construction of fences have been received from all airfields in the Soviet Zone of Germany except the fields in Altenburg, Brandis, Cottbus, Dosberitz, Puetznitz and Staaken.
- (7)

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